

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 29, 2005

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on TT/HUD  
Committee on Appropriations  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John W. Olver  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on TT/HUD  
Committee on Appropriations  
1111 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

As the Subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, we would like to express our strong support for fully funding the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Section 8 housing vouchers are critical to the ability of our communities to effectively secure safe, affordable housing for low-income families, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. These vouchers also provide struggling families the stability and foundation needed to maintain employment and achieve economic success.

The President recognized the importance of the Section 8 housing program in his FY06 Budget, and stated his desire to fully fund vouchers needing renewal. While many of us believe increased funding is necessary to reduce the long waiting lists that exist for the Housing Choice Voucher program, we all agree that we should provide at least the same level of funding as the President requested in his budget.

The FY06 Budget indicates that the Administration plans to present legislation to substantially alter this successful program. We appreciate that the report accompanying the FY05 VA-HUD appropriations bill recognized that "such changes fall outside the Committee's jurisdiction" and that reform proposals should be taken up by the authorizing committee instead. Indeed, the Financial Services Committee is currently engaged in a bipartisan effort to examine ways to improve the program. Therefore, we urge the Subcommittee to continue to defer to the authorizing committee with respect to programmatic changes to the voucher program.

Meanwhile, waiting lists for families seeking Section 8 assistance continue to grow. We hope you take into account the severity of the housing crisis we now face, and the importance of Section 8 vouchers in providing millions of families a safe and affordable place to live. Vouchers are also a linchpin of many local and state strategies to end chronic homelessness, which the President has made a key priority.

We, therefore, urge you to provide full funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program in the FY06 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Nadler

Vladimir M. Milojkovic

Martin J. Scher

Charles Rangel

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Nancy Pelosi

Frank D. Lucas

Bob Filner

Tim Harkin

Nancy L. Johnson

Chuck Schumer

Patrick J. Leahy

Tom Harkin

Alfred D. Hotelling

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Shelley Berkley  
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AKO-

David Scott

Madeline J. Bordallo

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Jim Langevin

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Betty McCollum

David W.

Russ Holt

Kenneth B. M.

James B.

John B. R.

Jim M. D.

Ellen D.

John S.

Vanny B.

Lita J.

Nike McIntyre

Rubin Henojan

Maia Wale

Robert Ash

J - Lend

Members of Congress who signed the Nadler/Shays/Velazquez/Tiberi letter  
in support of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

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5. Alcee Hastings
6. Anna Eshoo
7. Anthony Weiner
8. Artur Davis
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11. Bart Gordon
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13. Bennie G. Thompson
14. Bernie Sanders
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28. Christopher Shays
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- 166. Tom Udall
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- 169. William Lacy Clay
- 170. Xavier Becerra